

ENGINEERING & PROJECT LOGISTICS

Project logistics handbook 2026

For project owners, EPC contractors and procurement teams: planning, equipment selection, permits and delivery terms for heavy and oversized cargo in Vietnam.

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1 Logistics is part of the project schedule

Industrial projects are built through thousands of coordinated activities. Logistics is not an isolated activity: it directly influences construction progress, commissioning schedules and overall project success.

Project objectives	Safety · Quality · Schedule · Cost
Project milestones	Engineering · Procurement · Construction · Commissioning
Critical equipment	Heavy · Oversized · High value · Long lead items
Project stakeholders	Owners · EPC contractors · Vendors · Carriers · Site teams
Project risks	Delay · Damage · Safety · Interface · Cost

Typical challenges

Many vendors, many countries. Equipment comes from different suppliers, ports and carriers, each with its own schedule.

Interface gaps between parties. Responsibility gaps between vendors, carriers and site easily lead to extra cost.

Delivery in construction sequence. Cargo must arrive in installation order: not so early that it congests the site, not so late that work stops.

No end-to-end visibility. Owners and contractors need to know where each shipment is and what the risks are to decide in time.

2 Our 5-step approach

1. Understand

Collect cargo data, drawings, pick-up and delivery points and project milestones.

2. Plan

Survey the route, select equipment, prepare the engineering and lifting plan.

3. Coordinate

Obtain permits and align suppliers, ports, carriers and the site team.

4. Deliver

Load, secure, transport and monitor continuously along the route.

5. Support

Hand over at site and keep communicating until the project is complete.

3 Information to prepare before asking for a quote

A logistics provider needs the information below to plan and quote accurately. Every missing figure means more assumptions and a wider margin of error.

- ☐ Commodity / equipment name and number of pieces
- ☐ Dimensions of each largest piece: length, width, height (including packing and crates)
- ☐ Weight of the heaviest piece, total weight and total volume (CBM)
- ☐ Cargo drawings, packing list and photos (if available)
- ☐ Origin (factory, port, city) and destination (port, project site)
- ☐ Delivery terms (Incoterm) in the purchase contract
- ☐ Cargo ready date and required on-site date

4 Oversized and overweight cargo: when a permit is needed

Under Article 10 of Circular 12/2025/TT-BXD (as amended by Circular 19/2026/TT-BXD), indivisible cargo that, once loaded, makes the vehicle or combination exceed at least one limit below is oversized or overweight cargo, and the vehicle needs a circulation permit:

Length	> 20 m
Width	> 2.5 m
Height from road surface	> 4.2 m (container carriers > 4.35 m)
Gross mass of vehicle and cargo	> 48 t

Limits apply to the loaded vehicle. A 3 m tall piece on a 1.3 m deck is already 4.3 m. Tip: the trailer deck (from the road surface) must be lower than 4.2 m minus the cargo height to stay within the height limit.

Road survey thresholds by road class (Appendix XVI)

Road class	Height above	Width above
Expressway	4.75 m	3.0 m
Expressway (phased investment)	4.75 m	2.8 m
Class I road	4.5 m	3.0 m
Class II road	4.5 m	3.0 m
Class III road (lowland)	4.5 m	3.0 m
Class III road (mountain)	4.5 m	2.8 m
Class IV road (lowland)	4.35 m	2.8 m
All other roads	4.35 m	2.5 m

Exceeding axle, axle-group or gross mass limits, or passing a published restriction (including bridges) beyond the published value, also requires a survey.

5 Circulation permit procedure in brief

Issuing authority	Department of Construction of the province where the applicant is registered, or where the origin or destination lies. Valid nationwide.
Main documents	Application form (Appendix I or II); for oversized or overweight cargo, the reason other modes are unsuitable; road survey and strengthening reports where required.
How to apply	National Public Service Portal, by post, or in person at a public administrative service centre.
Processing time	Document check the same day (in person) or within 1 working day (online, post); permit issued within 2 working days of a complete file.
Validity	Up to 90 days (fully upgraded route, no mandatory conditions) or 30 days (route not fully upgraded, or designated lane, escort, warnings or strengthening required).
Notes	Only one indivisible overweight unit per trip. From 1 January 2027 permits carry a QR code.

6 Choosing a container for difficult cargo

The figures below are example specifications published by Hapag-Lloyd; actual units vary by manufacturer and must be confirmed with the carrier before stuffing. Max payload assumes an evenly spread load.

Type	Inside (L × W × H, m)	Door / roof opening (W × H or L)	Max payload
20' standard (20GP)	5.90 × 2.352 × 2.395	2.34 × 2.292	28.13 t
40' standard (40GP)	12.032 × 2.352 × 2.395	2.34 × 2.292	28.75 t
40' high cube (40HC)	12.032 × 2.35 × 2.70	2.34 × 2.597	28.6 t
20' open top	5.895 × 2.35 × 2.34	2.23 × 5.338	30.05 t
40' open top	12.029 × 2.35 × 2.344	2.23 × 11.552	28.45 t
40' open top high cube	12.029 × 2.352 × 2.649	2.192 × 11.552	28.25 t
20' flat rack	5.638 × 2.194 × 2.233		42.1 t
40' flat rack high cube	11.652 × 2.245 × 2.265		49.1 t

Standard (20GP, 40GP, 40HC). Loaded through the rear doors; the piece must pass the door frame. A 40HC door is about 30 cm taller than a standard one.

Flat rack. A floor with two end walls and the highest payload of the group. Any overhang to the sides or top is out-of-gauge.

Open top. Removable roof with tarpaulin, loaded by crane from above. Cargo taller than the side walls can ship as out-of-gauge (OOG).

Breakbulk. Pieces longer than a 40' flat rack or heavier than its payload are stowed directly in the hold or on deck.

7 Incoterms 2020 for project cargo

Incoterms 2020 are published by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and contain 11 rules. Compared with 2010, DAT was replaced by DPU.

Group	Rules
Any mode of transport	EXW, FCA, CPT, CIP, DAP, DPU, DDP
Sea and inland waterway only	FAS, FOB, CFR, CIF

- FOB, CFR and CIF are meant for cargo delivered on board. Containers handed over at a terminal fit better with FCA, CPT or CIP.
- Insurance: CIF only requires minimum cover (Clauses C), CIP requires higher cover (Clauses A). Agree the level of cover explicitly for high-value equipment.
- FCA 2020 lets the parties agree that the buyer's carrier issues an on-board bill of lading to the seller, which helps with letters of credit.
- For breakbulk or chartered vessels, loading, discharging and securing costs also depend on the charter party or bill of lading; agree them together with the Incoterm.
- To control the international leg and delivery dates, consider FCA or FOB and appoint your own logistics provider. The inland leg in Vietnam is often the hardest.

8 Project logistics planning checklist

Tick when done

- ☐ Build a cargo list: dimensions, weight and quantity per procurement package
- ☐ Flag pieces over road limits and pieces needing special containers (open top, flat rack) or breakbulk
- ☐ Agree the Incoterm for each package and who handles the inland leg in Vietnam
- ☐ Obtain cargo drawings, lifting points and packing lists from vendors
- ☐ Schedule deliveries in site installation order
- ☐ Survey the road route for oversize and overweight pieces; prepare circulation permit documents
- ☐ Plan lifting at port, yard and site
- ☐ Agree contact points and the progress and risk reporting cycle between parties
- ☐ Keep a risk register: delay, damage, safety, interface, cost

Comes with: an Excel project logistics template (cargo list with limit warnings and container suggestion, milestones, documents, risk register).

GLOGIMEX plans, coordinates and executes logistics for EPC and industrial projects: international freight, customs, warehousing, inland transport and heavy haul. Send your cargo list to receive a logistics plan.

Free tools on glogimex.com: oversized cargo check and container finder for out-of-gauge cargo.

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Sources: Circular 12/2025/TT-BXD and Circular 19/2026/TT-BXD (consolidated text, Ministry of Construction); ICC Incoterms® 2020; container data Hapag-Lloyd, Cargo fleet / Container (read 10 October 2026). Summary for reference, updated 10 October 2026.